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# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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SUBJECT Internal Conflicts in Bao Dai Government

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**SOURCE:**

1. The principal conflicts within the Bao Dai Government are between the ministers and secretaries of the cabinet on the one hand and the governors of the three provinces (Cochinchina, Annam, Tonkin) on the other. There are also conflicts between the three governors. In each instance jealousy and desire for power are the causes of conflict. For the most part, the members of the cabinet and the secretaries are not men of stature in the country. The majority of the bickering and jockeying for position is ignored. The prevailing attitude of everyone is to wait and see. Almost all the officials dislike General Nguyen Van Xuan. The feud between Xuan and Tran Van Giau, Governor of Annam, is perhaps the most bitter. Giau is also carrying on a feud with Tran Van Huu, Governor of Cochinchina and a protege of General Xuan. Nguyen Han Tri, Governor of Tonkin, stands somewhat aloof from these feuds, possibly because of the geographical position of Tonkin and also because he is apparently more concerned with improving conditions in his territory than the other governors are in theirs.
2. Although there is apparent contact, or at least communication, between a few of the members of the Bao Dai Government in Saigon and the Viet Minh, it is doubtful that such communication exists in Hanoi. All Vietnamese, including members of the Bao Dai Government, are aware of the significance to their cause of the continuation of the Viet Minh's struggle. Many regard an agreement with Ho Chi Minh as the only solution to the situation, although some of the members of the Bao Dai Government would be in a dubious position in such an event.

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